

Appl. No. 09/681,975
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7 and 10-12 have been rejected for alleged obviousness reasons. As previously provided, claims 1, 5-7 and 10-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the obviousness rejections with respect to same have been rendered moot and thus should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 8-9 and 13 have been objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicants have provided new claims 14-20. Claim 14 represents claim 2 in independent form, where claim 15 depends therefrom; claim 16 represents claim 3 in independent form, where claim 17 depends therefrom; and claims 18-20 represent claims 8-9 and 13 in independent form, respectively. Therefore, Applicants believe that newly added claims 14-20 should be considered allowable, and thus the present case should pass to allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants earnestly request the issuance of a Notice of Allowability in view of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY


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